

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO, XF

SUBJECT: STATUS OF NON-INTEREST LOANS TO UNESCO

1. DELOFF INFORMED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE BY KNOWLEDGEABLE SECRETARIAT SOURCE OF CURRENT RESULTS OF EFFORTS LAUNCHED BY UNESCO'S DIRECTOR GENERAL THIS SUMMER TO SECURE NON-INTEREST LOANS TO OFFSET THE NON-PAYMENT OF THE US CONTRIBUTION.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT OF INFORMATION REPORTED BELOW, NIGERIAN DEPUTY PERMREP CONFIRMED TO DELOFF THAT NIGERIA HAS PLEDGED A LOAN OF \$500,000; THE FIRST BLACK AFRICAN RESPONSE. NIGERIAN PERMDEL HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT M'BOW HAD UNFORTUNATELY ADDRESSED HIS FIRST APPEAL PERSONALLY TO GENERAL GOWON AND THAT ANOTHER LETTER HAD TO BE RESUBMITTED TO THE NEW REGIME IN LAGOS. LATTER'S FEATHERS APPARENTLY HAD TO BE UNRUFFLED AS WELL.

2. ACTUALLY RECEIVED NON-INTEREST LOANS ARE: \$250,000 FROM BAHREIN; \$1,600,000 FROM QUATAR; \$4,600,000 FROM SAUDI ARABIA, FOR A TOTAL OF \$6,450,000.

3. LOANS PLEDGED BUT NOT YET RECEIVED ARE: \$4,500,000

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FROM LIBYA; \$4 MILLION FROM IRAQ; AND \$50,000 FROM

YUGOSLAVIA, FOR A TOTAL OF \$8,550,000. PERMDEL WILL ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER NIGERIAN LOAN ONLY PLEDGED OR HAS BEEN ACTUALLY RECEIVED. COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE MADE PLEDGES BUT WITHOUT SPECIFYING AMOUNTS ARE: ALGERIA, EGYPT, KUWAIT, LEBANON, OMAN, SYRIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. SPAIN IS SAID TO HAVE REPLIED THAT UNESCO LOAN APPEAL IS "UNDER STUDY." SWEDEN APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO MAKE AN OUTRIGHT LOAN BUT HAS PAID ITS 1976 DUES OF \$1 MILLION ON NOVEMBER 4.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING AT VARIANCE WITH PREVIOUS PERMDEL REPORTS FROM USUALLY RELIABLE SECRETARIAT SOURCES THAT ARABS HAVE MADE OR PLEDGED COMBINED TOTAL OF \$20 MILLION - \$25 MILLION. HOWEVER, SOURCE FOR ABOVE IS IN COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE. SAME SOURCE INDEED SAID THAT UNESCO CAN "SQUEEZE THROUGH NOVEMBER" USING ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING ABOVE LOANS.

5. DG M'BOW AND OTHER TOP LEVEL UNESCO OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO TAKE OPTIMISTIC, OR AT LEAST UNDISCOURAGED ATTITUDE WHEN ASKED PRIVATELY OR PUBLICLY ABOUT UNESCO FINANCES. US HAS, OF COURSE, DERIVED SOME CONSIDERABLE PROTECTION FROM CRITICISM BY OTHER MEMBER STATES AS A RESULT. ON THE OTHER HAND, UNESCO'S LEADERSHIP PROBABLY VERY ANXIOUS TO AVOID CONCEDED THAT ORGANIZATION IS CAUGHT IN A DOUBLE SQUEEZE BETWEEN US NON-PAYMENT AND HAVING TO RELY LARGELY ON ARAB LOANS WITH LATTER'S IMPLICATION OF ORGANIZATION BEING MORTGAGED TO ARABS.
RUSH

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TAGS: AORG, PORG, EFIN, XF, UNESCO, (M'BOW, AMADOU MAHTAR)
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